



## **Sanitarian Services**

### **Fact Sheet**

A funding decrease would be devastating to the public. The activities are formulated and executed to produce a complete process that ensures public health needs; safe and clean water and food and proper sewage disposal are met. Infrastructure improvements would be achieved with increased funding.

#### **Objective**

Sanitarian Services protects public health through preventative measures which include education of the public, plans review, inspection, sampling, and enforcement activities. We will continue to protect citizens from illnesses and epidemics which result when effective controls are not implemented.

#### **Performance Indicators**

1. Percentage of permitted establishments/facilities in compliance.
2. Percentage of required samples in compliance.
3. Percentage of sewerage systems properly installed
4. Number of plans reviewed
5. Number of food, water or sewage borne reported illnesses

#### **Narrative**

The activities performed by Sanitarian Services, Engineering and Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund professional staff create the foundation of preventive public health. The foundation is comprised of safe and clean water, food and proper sewage disposal. These basic assurances are met by education, inspection, monitoring and regulating of drinking water supplies both community and individual wells, all retail and wholesale foodservice facilities, food processors, dairy farms and milk processors, community and individual sewerage treatment systems, seafood processors and oyster growing waters, schools, daycares, nursing homes, hospitals, prisons and private and public premises. The vector control activity regulates aspects of mosquito abatement and other insects of public health significance. Infectious Waste vehicles

are permitted and medical waste generators, transporters, and storage sites are inspected for compliance. Public beaches are monitored for contaminated water and public advisories are posted as needed. Commercial UV Tanning equipment is inspected to ensure safe exposure limits are not exceeded. Tattooing and piercing businesses are inspected for sanitary conditions and certification of operators.

## **Better Health**

Safe drinking water and food is necessary to sustain human life. There are no demographic, economic or ethnic boundaries. These activities advance the state goal of better health by protecting 24 million people from diseases for which there is no vaccine and often result in death such as cholera, giardia, cryptosporidium, and E. coli.

Sanitarian Services (SS) contributes to Louisiana's (LA) goal of **Better Health** through **education and empowerment of citizens regarding their health**. This is accomplished by strategically trained Registered Sanitarians conducting multi-discipline programmatic activities. Education is a fundamental service of Sanitarian Services provided to the public and business owners. This is achieved through one on one consultation and inspection activities to **create a culture of personal responsibility for themselves and their community health** however the public has come to expect that basic hygienic measures for water, food and proper sewage disposal are in place and are strongly supported by their government leaders. The activities of SS offer the 24 million citizens and visitors of LA a high level of confidence in the water used to brush their teeth, the milk they drink, the food they eat, and the safe sewage disposal when they flush their toilet. Without clean and safe water and food, and proper sewage disposal the need for all other health services would be magnified to a level that would reflect society in the pre-1900s. There simply would not be enough hospitals or cemeteries to meet the needs of the people. We protect every person of every age group in some way every day. SS advances the state goal of better health by assuring a competent workforce. Environmental public health practitioners apply competencies for public health assessment, policy development, service assurances, and prevention and identify the level of government; federal, state, and local at which these functions would best be handled.

Sanitarian Services (SS) has consistently produced successful outcomes through the execution of their duties and responsibilities. 100% compliance with all federal mandates have been achieved resulting in the continued interstate and international shipping of oysters, dairy, food, and seafood from Louisiana. Food service establishments have consistently been in the 90% compliance range. SS has regulated the tattoo industry in LA since 2002 and no known cases of Hepatitis or other blood borne diseases have been traced to these facilities. During the recent peanut butter salmonella outbreak SS worked immediately with the established network of industry and community stakeholders to prevent the sale and consumption of any contaminated products in the state. LA had no reported illness. 46 other states suffered 714 illnesses and 9 deaths. It is estimated by the World Health Organization that approximately 76 million people worldwide will die by 2020 from preventable diseases caused by unclean drinking water. Recent emergency activities included collection of 1,600 private water samples

after Hurricane Katrina and 200 private water samples after Hurricane Gustav. Evidence of outbreaks of cholera, typhoid and yellow fever occur in areas where there are masses of people and poor provisions for sanitation—safe drinking water sources and treatment of wastes. With the current growth rate in the state, existing population density, and climate factors, favorable conditions exist that can lead to major outbreaks if any Sanitarian services were discontinued or lessened.